

Marinating in God's Word: Amos 5:21-24, Matthew 7:21-23

Ask about a favorite book of the Bible, and you're not likely to someone cite the Minor Prophets. And yet we hear God's word through them too. Thus we are focusing this summer on a portion of the Bible we tend not to know very well.

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

- Most prophets rose up from the people they addressed. But Amos was from the southern Kingdom, Judah, and the Lord gave him a word for the northern Kingdom, Israel. Was Amos helped with more with his confrontational word by being a fresh voice, or hindered more because "he's not from around here"?
- Amos questioned the value of their worship. Why? Does worship have intrinsic value, or must it have other factors that complete it?
- Does it matter if worship is done well or not? If it is "done well" is that enough? And what does "done well" mean to you? If it is done poorly, but everything else is right, is that enough?
- When you prepare for worship, what do you do? What would Amos or Jesus (Matthew 7) say you must also do to be ready to worship? How are you doing as an individual who prepares for worship? And how is St. Giles doing as a church preparing for worship?

Next week we will focus on Habakkuk.